

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH

S E C R E T USNATO 1596

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

JERUSALEM PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM BRUCE

REF: STATE 065376

1. WE HAD MEETING THIS MORNING WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, THE BELGIAN, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, AND THE BRITISH AND GERMAN CHARGES IN SYG'S OFFICE. PRIOR TO THE MEETING, FRG CHARGE D'AFFAIRES BOSS AND MYSELF MET WITH LUNS, PANS, AND VAN CAMPEN.

2. BOSS, IN THE SMALLER MEETING AND LATER IN LARGER MEETING, CALLED ATTENTION TO CHANGES MADE DURING NIGHT IN COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT FROM BONN, I. E., BONN DROPPED IDEA OF CALLING FOR A FULL-FLEDGED NAC.

3. SENSE OF LARGER MEETING AS SUMMED UP BY SYG AND WHICH HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS WAS:

A) IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED BY THOSE PRESENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO FORMAL NAC MEETING ON SUBJECT.

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B) REPRESENTATIVES THOUGHT NO PRECIPITATE ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME NOR ANY DEMARCHE MADE AT LEAST UNTIL THE MATTER WAS LAID BEFORE A LARGER MEETING WHICH LUNS SET FOR FOUR O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 22). THAT MEETING WILL BE OF ALL NATO AMBASSADORS

OR CHARGES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PORTUGUESE.

:) ALL THOSE PRESENT WERE ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY EXCERPTS I READ THEM FROM AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S TELEGRAM(LISBON 1632).

D) IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY FELT BY THOSE PRESENT THAT EVERY CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN BY NATO AUTHORITIES TO GIVE NO PRETEXT FOR ACCUSATIONS OF NATO INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. MATTER OF POSSIBLE VISIT OF SYG TO LISBON WAS NEVER MENTIONED.

5. THE IDEA OF INFORMAL BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIET AUTHORITIES WAS CONSIDERED TO BE POSSIBLY USEFUL BUT NO DEFINITE AND PARTICULAR SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE IN THIS RESPECT EXCEPT FOR OBSERVATIONS THAT SUCH CONCERSATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY HANDLED.

6. SEVERAL EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY HAD DETERIORATED AND IT IS CONTINUING TO DO SO AT AN ALARMING RATE.

7. BRITISH CHARGE LOGAN REFERRED TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TO PRIME MINISTER WILSON. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE ROSE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY SIMILAR MESSAGE HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO GISCARD.

8. IN SUM, THE SECRETARY GENERAL FELT, AS DID THE OTHERS, THAT IT WAS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL WHETHER AT THIS STAGE ANY MOVEMENT BY NATO MEMBERS COULD AVERT A MORE COMPLETE TAKING OVER OF POWER BY ACTUAL OR CONTROLLED COMMUNIST OPERATORS IN PORTUGAL.

9. SYG TOLD ME PRIVATELY HE WOULD PREFER AN ALL-COMMUNIST CABINET TO A MIXED ONE.

10. COMMENT: OF COURSE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT COURSE THE INTERCHANGES THIS AFTERNOON WILL FOLLOW. UNDOUBTEDLY, THERE WILL BE
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A CONSIDERABLE DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON WHAT, IF ANY, ROLE NATO CAN IMMEDIATELY PLAY IN THIS CRISIS.

11. WE HAVE REPEATED THIS TELEGRAM ONLY TO LISBON AND THE SECRETARY'S PARTY. DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE ANY FURTHER DISTRIBUTION IT CONSIDERS ADVISABLE.
BRUCE

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